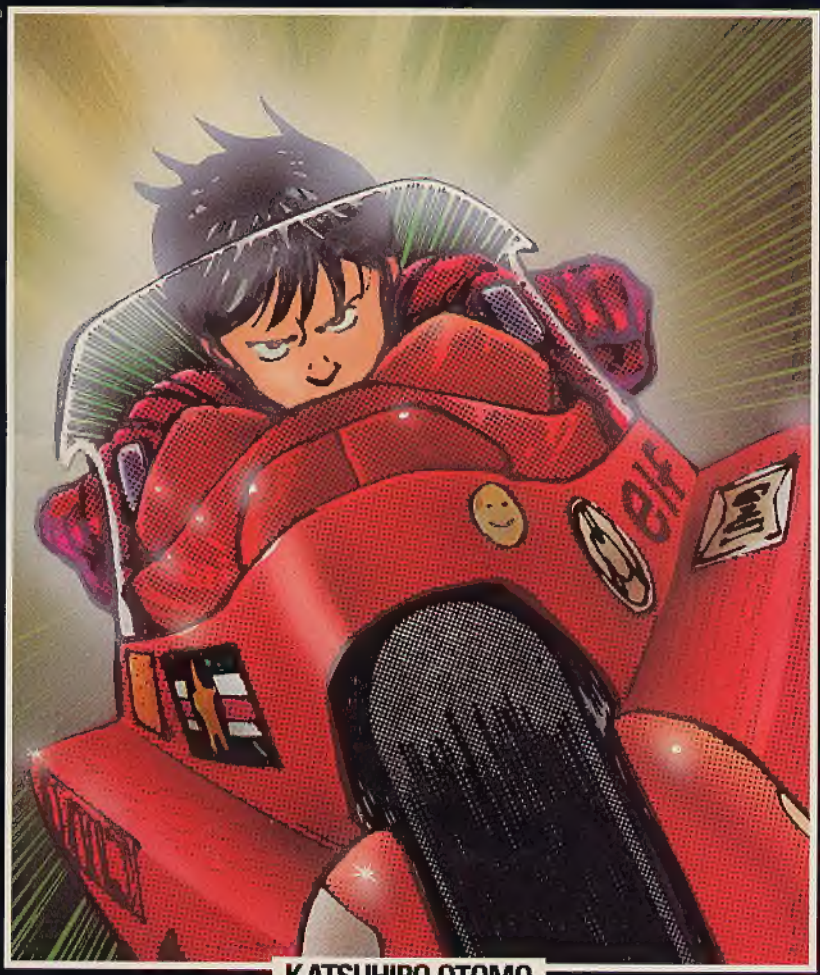
AKIRA 5™



KATSUHIRO OTOMO

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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

CHAPTER 5

CYCLE WARS

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

The year is 2030. The world is rebuilding from World War III. In **Neo-Tokyo,** plans are being made to hold the next Olympics in the "old city"—where, thirty-eight years before, the first of the bombs fell.

Kaneda and his friends, teenage delinquents, make an unauthorized motorcycle run into the old city to check out the old site. They encounter a terrified child, known only as **Number 26,** possessing extraordinary telekinetic abilities. During the encounter, the paranormal boy gravely injures **Tetsuo,** one of Kaneda's close friends. Then, he vanishes.

The next night, at **Harukiya,** a tough local dive, **Kaneda** attempts, unsuccessfully, to pick up a newcomer, **Kay.** In fact, she and her companion, **Ryu,** are part of an underground resistance group dedicated to learning what is happening in the old city and putting a stop to it.

Trouble ensues, and both delinquents and resistance fighters again encounter **Number 26. Ryu** attempts to reassure the paranormal boy, but **Kaneda** is anxious to punish him for injuring **Tetsuo.** As they argue, mysterious soldiers pursuing **Number 26** reach the scene, armed and ready. A firefight results.

Then the ominous **Colonel** in charge of the covert operation appears with a secret weapon—**Number 27,** a crippled paranormal child named **Masaru. Masaru** astonishes the resistance fighters by addressing **Number 26** as **Takashi. Kay** and **Ryu** had previously assumed that **Number 26** was the Colonel's ultimate weapon—the as-yet unseen paranormal giant code-named **Akira.**

Kaneda provokes a crisis by pretending to threaten **Takashi,** who is exhibiting symptoms of drug withdrawal. **Takashi** responds with telekinetic upheavals. **Kaneda** is again separated from the resistance fighters, but he manages to intercept and hide a pill meant for **Takashi,** who is recaptured by the Colonel's men.

The next day, **Tetsuo**—who following his accident was taken to a hospital by soldiers—reappears in school, seemingly

Kaneda Tetsuo Kay Ryu

all right. However, during **Tetsuo's** treatment, the **Colonel** has learned that the delinquent has great psychic potential.

Kaneda has a girlfriend in the school infirmary analyze the drug intended for **Takashi.** It is similar in substance to pills **Kaneda** and his friends take, but unbelievably concentrated and powerful.

Eager for action, **Kaneda, Tetsuo** and their gang head out for a rumble with their chief rivals—the vicious **Clown** gang.

A member of the **Clowns** comers and begins to beat **Tetsuo. Kaneda** and the rest of his friends rescue **Tetsuo,** who astonishes them, first by displaying an uncharacteristic bloodthirstiness, and then by challenging Kaneda's authority.

Determined not to let a new human weapon escape him, the **Colonel** goes to the school the next day to collect **Tetsuo.**

Under the treatments of the Colonel's chief medical officer, **Tetsuo** begins to exhibit powerful psychic abilities...and to undergo great pain.

Meanwhile, **Kaneda,** trying to spy on the **Colonel** and learn what is happening to **Tetsuo,** re-encounters the members of the resistance, and is brought back to their headquarters. Questioned by **Ryu,** he denies all knowledge of the stolen drug.

Kiyoko, another of the psychic children under the Colonel's control, announces to her master the disastrous news that **Akira**—who is asleep, and expected to remain so for some time—is going to awaken in the near future. Meanwhile, at the resistance hideout, **Kaneda** encounters a ghost-like apparition of himself, shouting Akira's name.

When soldiers enter the resistance hideout in force, **Kaneda** and **Kay** manage together to escape to **Harukiya,** where the bartender agrees to shelter them.

Overwhelmed by pain, **Tetsuo** breaks out of the Colonel's installation, leaving death in his wake. When he is cornered alone in the street by the **Clown** Gang, **Tetsuo** uses his burgeoning powers to slaughter those who oppose him. He takes control of the gang, letting them live in return for the massive amounts of drugs required to stave off his agony.

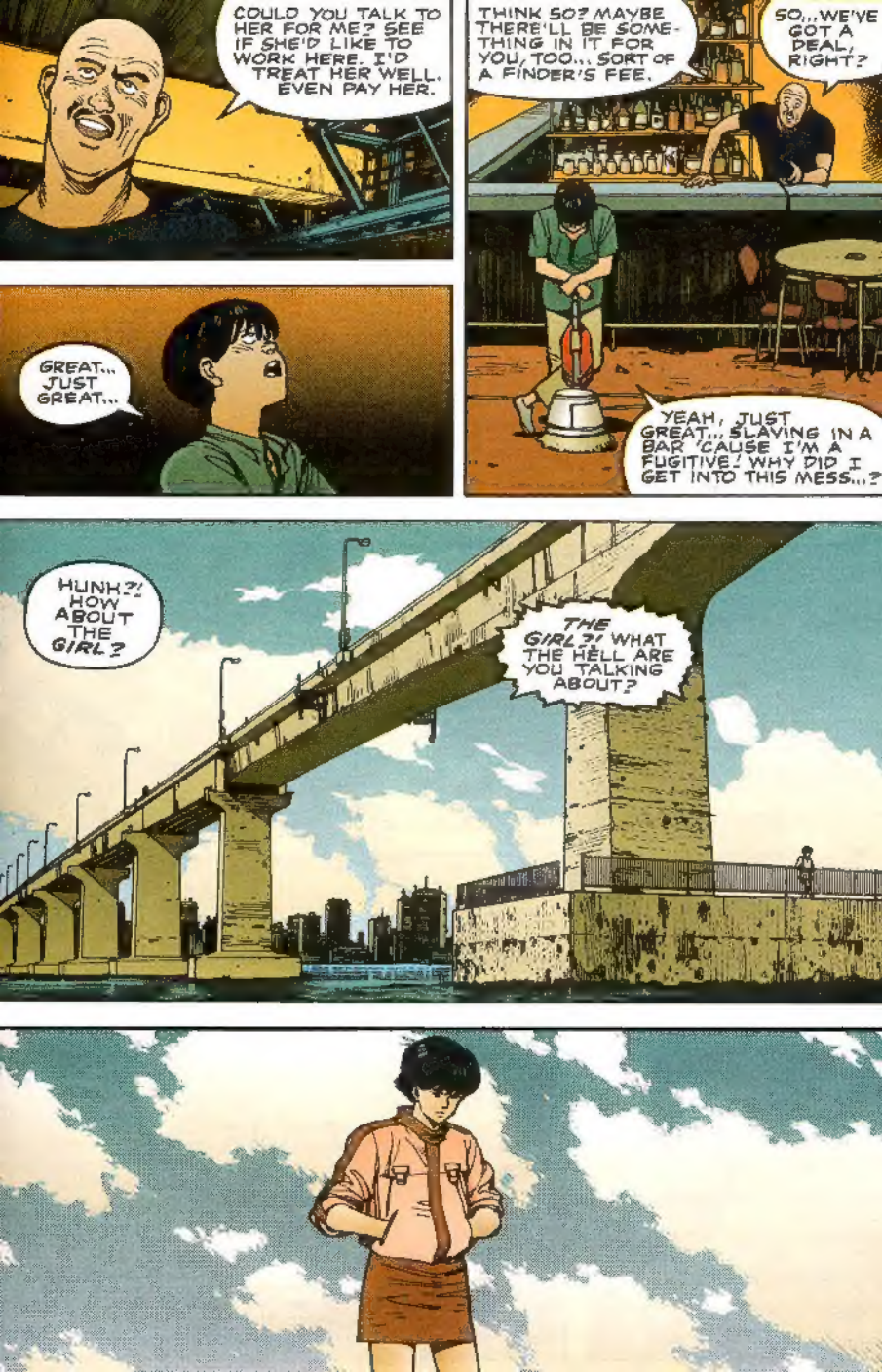
Kaneda, anxious to recover the motorcycle he left behind when he "joined" the resistance, eludes **Kay.** He is nearly caught by soldiers in the underground tunnels. **Kay** gets to the lost bike first, and when **Kaneda** joins her, they are able to escape again.

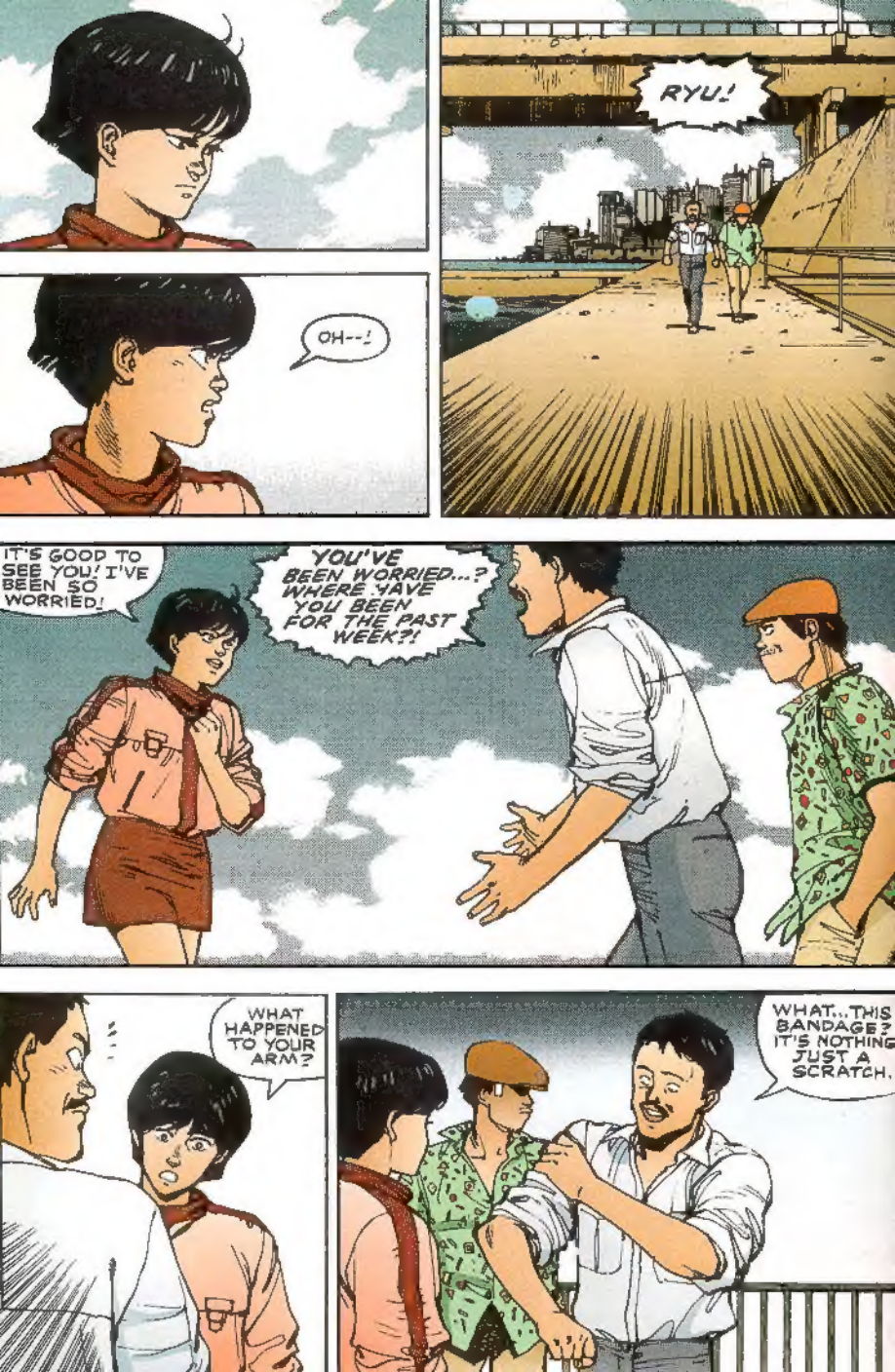
Takashi **The Colonel** **Masaru** **Yamagata**

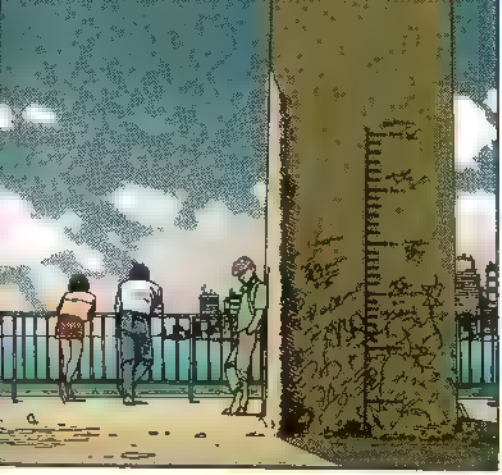
NO LADIES' ROOM
HEY!
HEY!!
HUNH?
NOW, WHERE IN...?

KLANK
CHUNK
HEY, HEY, HEY, HEY!
WHAT A RIPOFF! THE TOP OF THIS SCREW-DRIVER IS BROKEN!
OH, THERE YOU ARE!
IT'D HELP IF I COULD GET MY HANDS ON PROTO'S SCREWDRIVER. I NEED SOME DECENT TOOLS.
THIS PIECE OF CRAP THE BEST YOU CAN GIVE ME?
GET YOUR TAIL UP HERE, KANEDA. YOU GOTTA CLEAN THE BAR BEFORE WE OPEN.
SO SINCE WHEN DID I BECOME YOUR SLAVE?
SINCE NOW. MOVE IT.
YOU SKINHEAD! DO I AT LEAST GET PAID?

YOU EXPLOIT ME, I EXPLOIT YOU. I DIDN'T HEAR YOU GRIPING ABOUT CONDITIONS HERE WHEN I AGREED TO HIDE YOU AND YOUR GIRL FRIEND FROM THE LAW.
YOU'RE A VULTURE, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF MY MISFORTUNE...
khhrrrrmmm
khhrrrrmmm
YOU PROBABLY OWNED SLAVES IN A FORMER LIFE. AND ABUSED THEM.
I BET YOU'D EVEN TAKE THE BLANKET FROM A SICK MAN'S BED.
THAT'S GRATITUDE FOR YOU.
HUNH?
WHERE'D KAY GO?
OUT. SHE SAID SHE WOULDN'T BE GONE LONG.

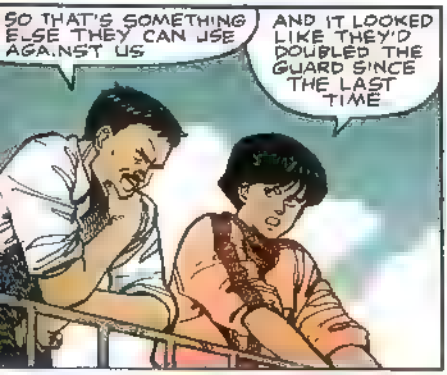

COULD YOU TALK TO HER FOR ME? SEE IF SHE'D LIKE TO WORK HERE. I'D TREAT HER WELL. EVEN PAY HER.
THINK SO? MAYBE THERE'LL BE SOMETHING IN IT FOR YOU, TOO... SORT OF A FINDER'S FEE.
SO,,,WE'VE GOT A DEAL, RIGHT?
GREAT... JUST GREAT...
YEAH, JUST GREAT... SLAVING IN A BAR 'CAUSE I'M A FUGITIVE! WHY DID I GET INTO THIS MESS...?
HUNK?! HOW ABOUT THE GIRL?
THE GIRL?! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

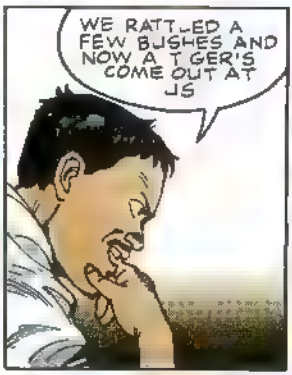

OH--!
RYU!
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU! I'VE BEEN SO WORRIED!
YOU'VE BEEN WORRIED...? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN FOR THE PAST WEEK?!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR ARM?
WHAT...THIS BANDAGE? IT'S NOTHING JUST A SCRATCH.



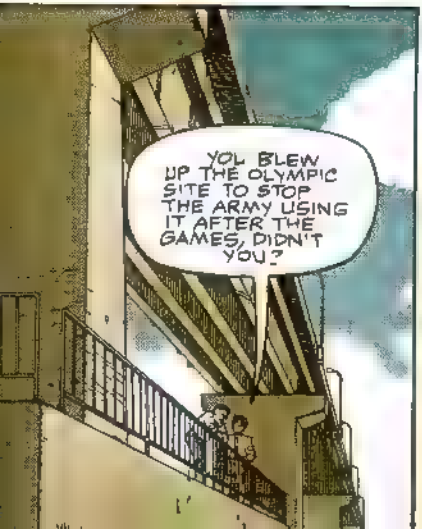
...BUCKETS THAT FLY, HUNH?
THAT'S SORT OF WHAT THEY LOOKED LIKE.

I'VE HEARD OF THEM. FLYING PLATFORMS.
THE ARMY INTRODUCED THEM THIS YEAR.


SO THAT'S SOMETHING ELSE THEY CAN USE AGAINST US
AND IT LOOKED LIKE THEY'D DOUBLED THE GUARD SINCE THE LAST TIME


WE RATTLED A FEW BUSHES AND NOW A TIGER'S COME OUT AT US

MMM

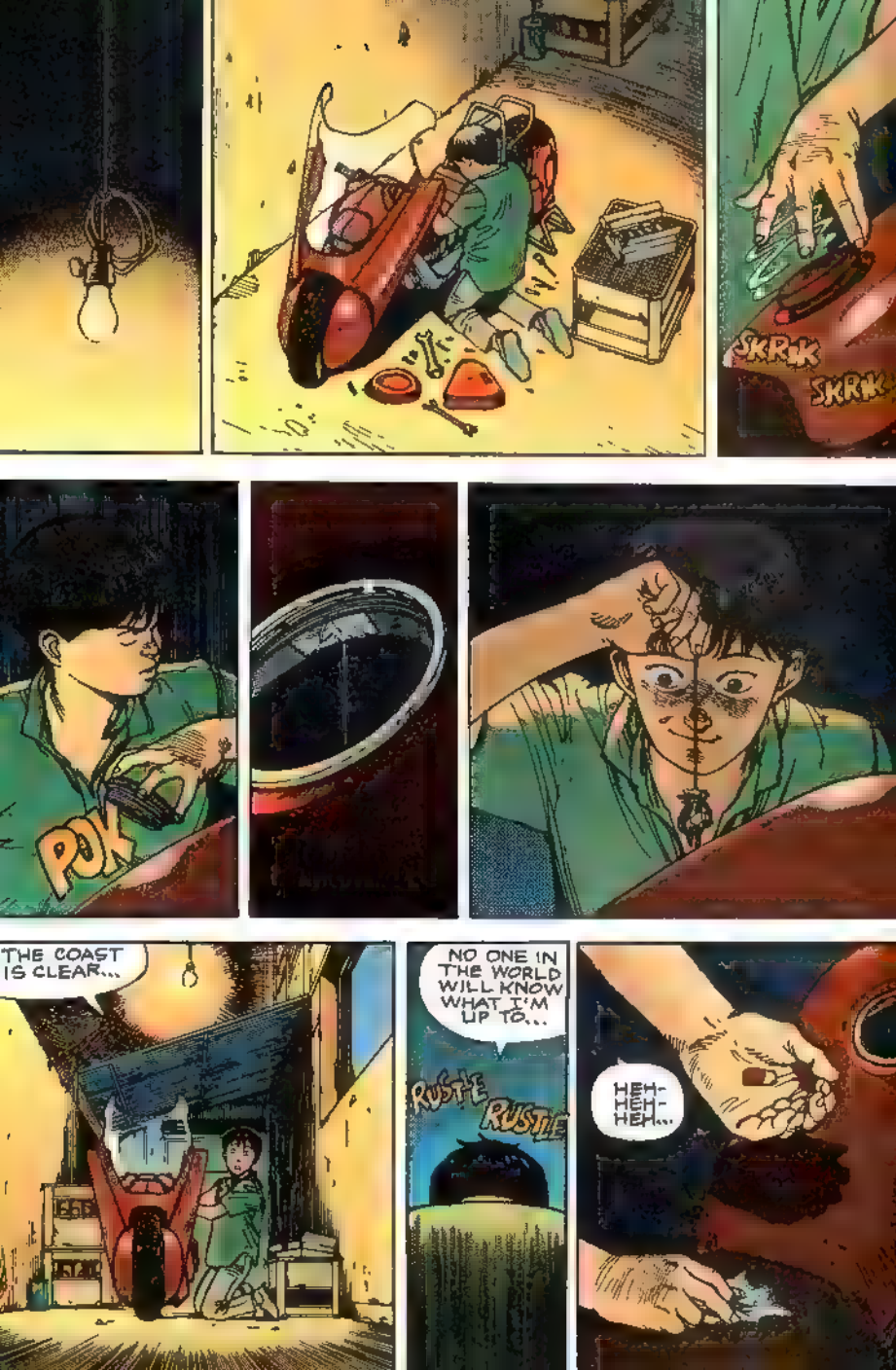

YOU BLEW UP THE OLYMPIC SITE TO STOP THE ARMY USING IT AFTER THE GAMES, DIDN'T YOU?

WORD IS, TOP BRASS HELD AN EMERGENCY MEETING JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO

WE GOT REPORTS ON PART OF WHAT WENT ON THERE. I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING DOWN, BUT THEY'RE POURING PHENOMENAL AMOUNTS OF MONEY INTO IT.

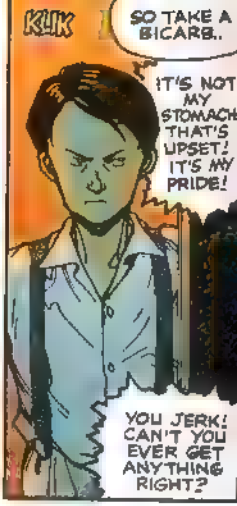
THEN THAT'S THE PLACE?
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO FIND OUT.
I WANT TO BE IN ON IT, RYU. I MEAN IT!
WHAT ABOUT THE PILL? DOES THE KID HAVE IT?
I DON'T THINK SO.
I'VE SEARCHED AS WELL AS I COULD.
MAYBE KANEDA WAS TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT DROPPING IT.
MAYBE I DID OVERESTIMATE HIM
TRUST ME! IT WOULDN'T BE HARD!
NOW, NOW. MUSTN'T LET HIM GET TO YOU.

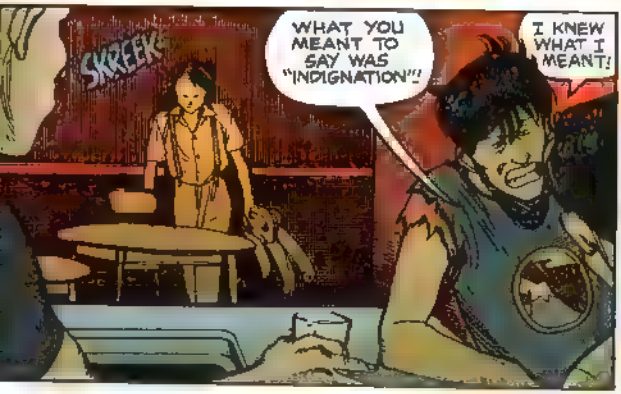
COME ON, RYU. TIME WE WERE OUT OF HERE.
YEAH
RIGHT
YOU MEAN YOU'RE ...?
STAY WITH KANEDA, KAY. I DON'T WANT THE ARMY GETTING THEIR HANDS ON HIM.
I'LL BE IN TOUCH SOON. SEE YOU.
RYU...


SKRNK
SKRNK
POK
THE COAST IS CLEAR...
NO ONE IN THE WORLD WILL KNOW WHAT I'M UP TO...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
HEH-HEH-HEH...

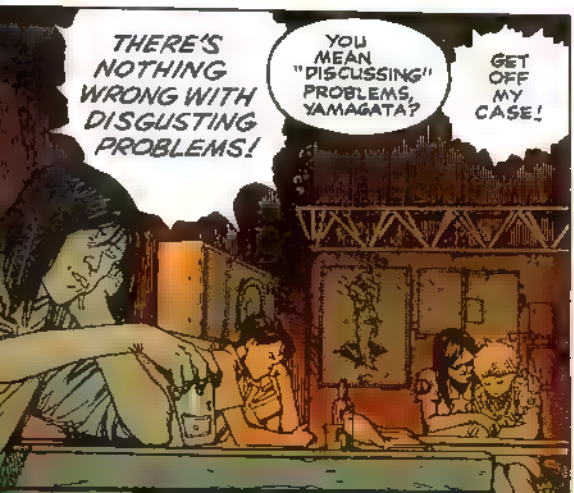
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP
THAM
DAMMITTOHELL!
SOMETHING WRONG?
SCREW IT!
WANT YOUR USUAL?
BAM
MAKE IT A DOUBLE!
ME, TOO
SO, YAMAGATA, WHAT'S EATING YOU AND YOUR PALS, ANYWAY?
NOTHING!!
I CAN'T CONTAIN MY INDIGES-TION!

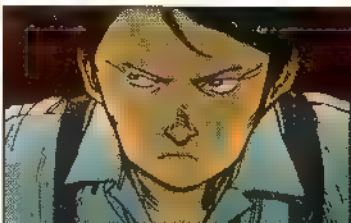
WHO
ENTER
LADIES' ROOM
HARUKIYA

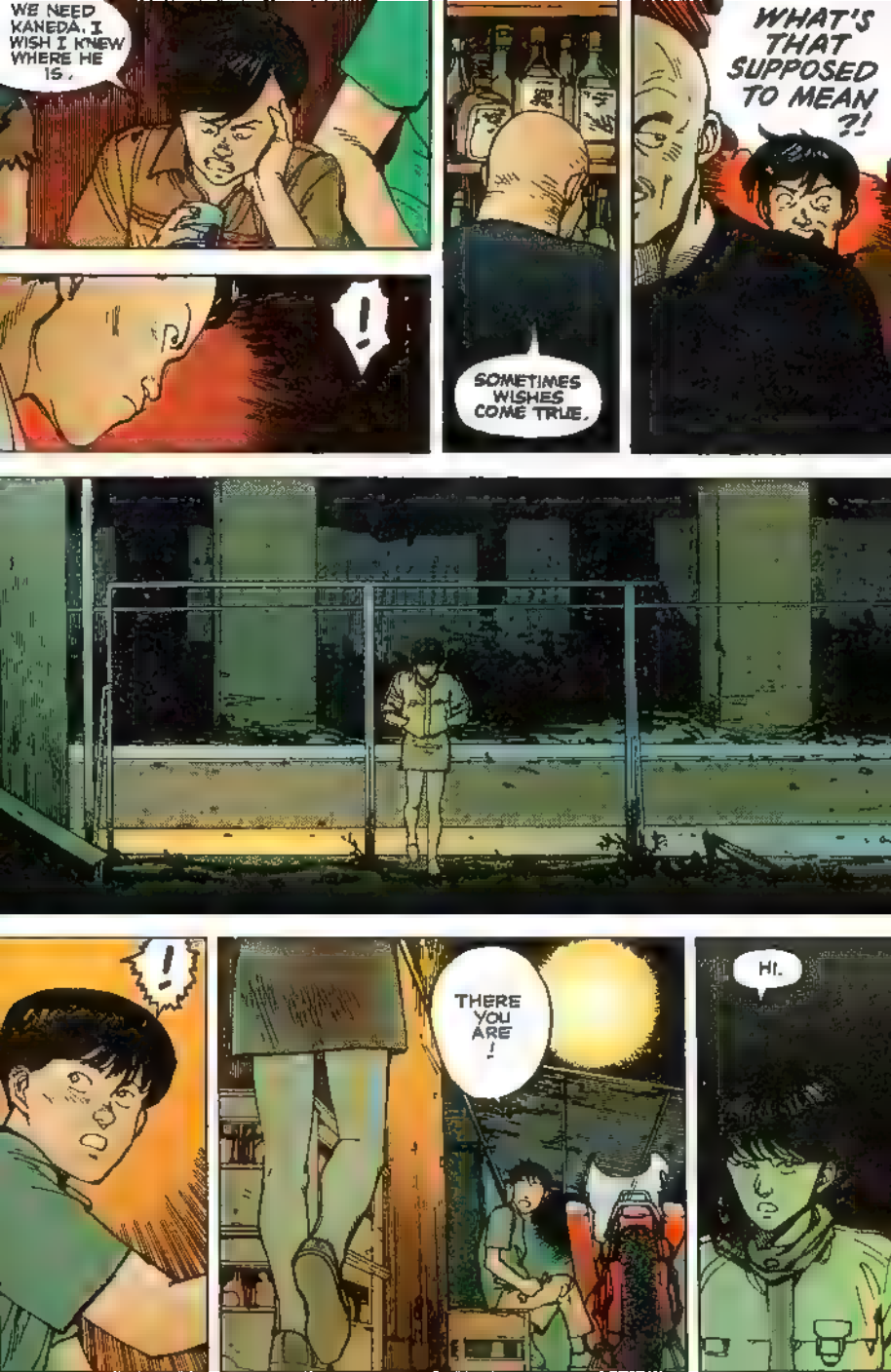

KLIK
SO TAKE A BICARB..
IT'S NOT MY STOMACH THAT'S UPSET! IT'S MY PRIDE!
YOU JERK! CAN'T YOU EVER GET ANYTHING RIGHT?


SKREEK
WHAT YOU MEANT TO SAY WAS "INDIGNATION"!
I KNEW WHAT I MEANT!

A BEER HERE!


THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH DISGUSTING PROBLEMS!
YOU MEAN "DISCUSSING" PROBLEMS, YAMAGATA?
GET OFF MY CASE!

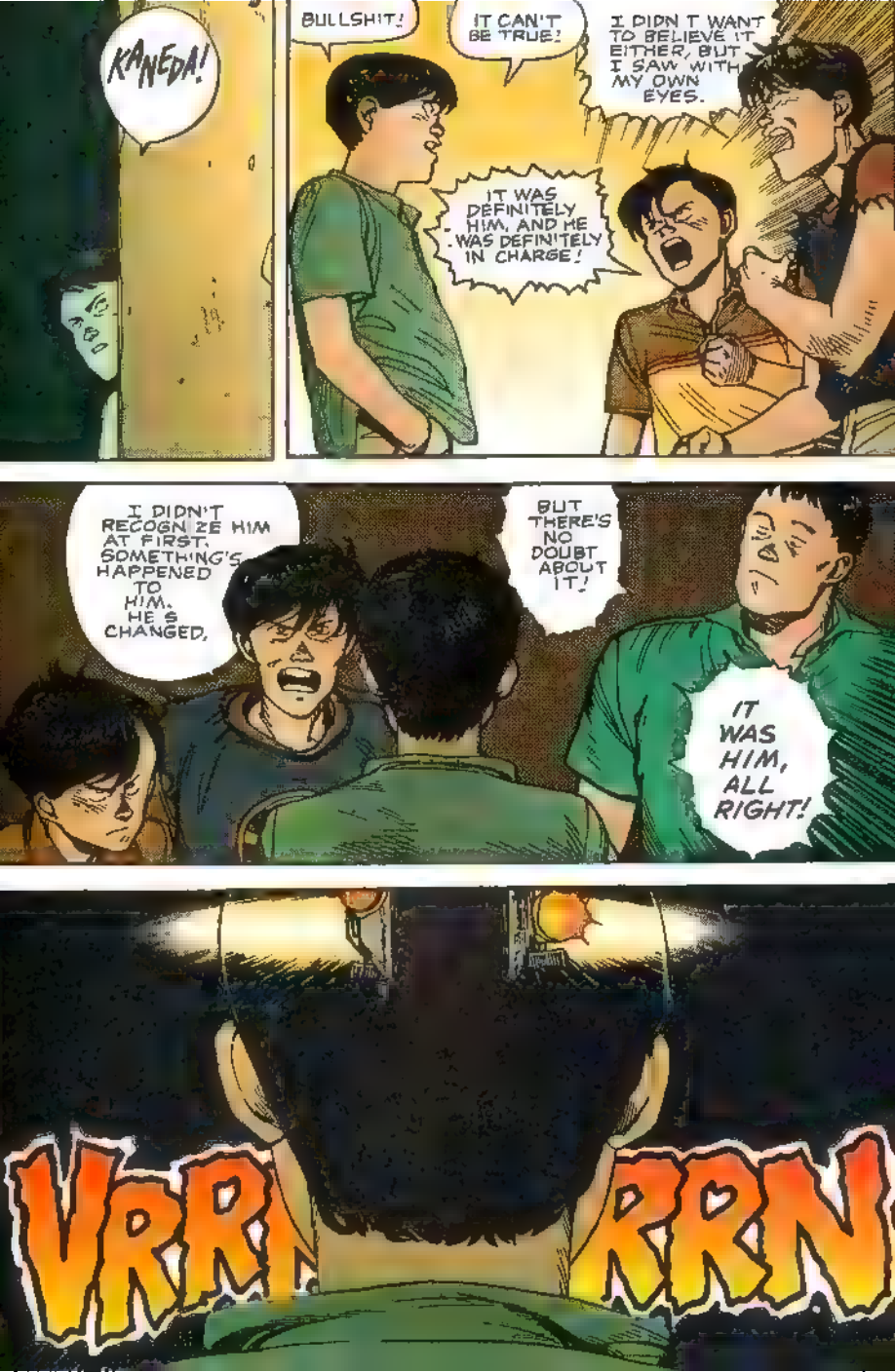


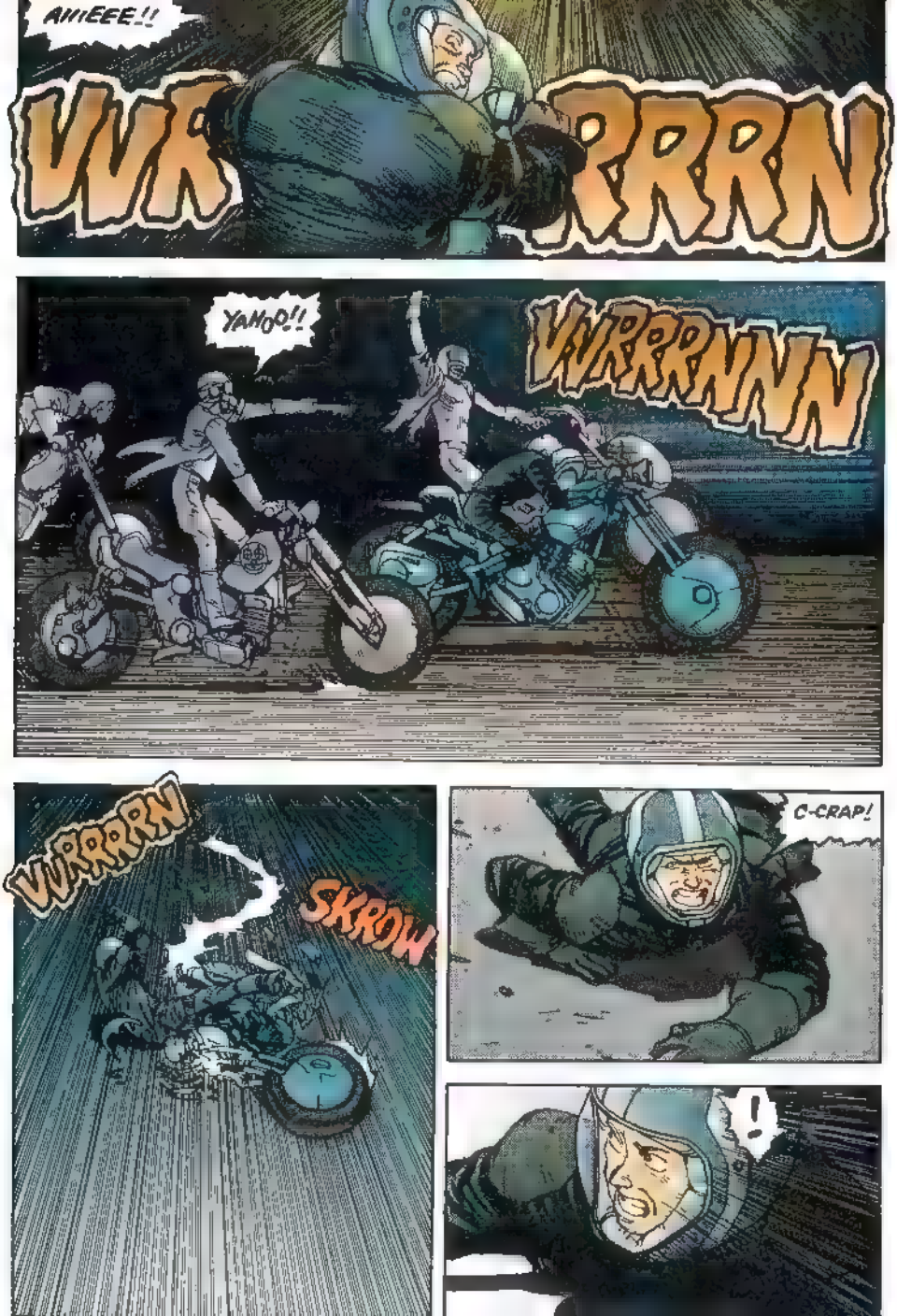

WE NEED KANEDA. I WISH I KNEW WHERE HE IS.
!
SOMETIMES WISHES COME TRUE.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN ?!
!
THERE YOU ARE !
HI.

NICE TO SEE YOU MADE IT SAFE AND SOUND
WHICH MEANS..?
IT WASN'T HARD TO FIGURE OUT. YOU WENT OFF TO MEET YOUR BROTHER.
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS
MIND YOUR MANNERS!
WHAT THE HELL DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MANNERS?!
EEP!
WHAM
YAA!
WHUD
YOU!!
KANEDA!!
OW!!
GET OFFA ME YOU MORON!

WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?
US? WHERE'VE YOU BEEN? WE THOUGHT THEY CAUGHT YOU!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
HEY, ISN'T SHE..?
THE GIRL FROM THE OTHER NIGHT, REMEMBER?
HER NAME IS--!
THE HELL WITH HER NAME! CAN'T YOU FORGET ABOUT SEX FOR ONE MINUTE?
YEAH!
KISSY-KISSY!
WHAT'S THE RUSH, YAMAGATA?
CAN'T YOU REMEMBER ?!
WHAT, THAT PROBLEM WITH THE CLOWN GANG?
YEAH. THEY'VE BEEN GOING AFTER ALL THE OTHER GANGS LATELY.
THEY RIP EVERYBODY OFF AND THEN BUY ALL THE DRUGS THEY CAN.
ARE YOU KIDDING?

IF THEY'RE SUCH DRUG ADDICTS, HOW COULD THEY BEAT UP HEALTHY GUYS LIKE YOU?
IT'S NOT THEM! IT'S THEIR NEW LEADER.
I THOUGHT THAT BLIMP JOKER RAN THE CLOWNS
CLUNK
SAY WHAT?!
TETSUO IS LEADING THE CLOWNS?!?


KANEDA!
BULLSHIT!
IT CAN'T BE TRUE!
I DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT EITHER, BUT I SAW WITH MY OWN EYES.
IT WAS DEFINITELY HIM, AND HE WAS DEFINITELY IN CHARGE!
I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HIM AT FIRST. SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO HIM. HE'S CHANGED.
BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!
IT WAS HIM, ALL RIGHT!
VRR
RRN

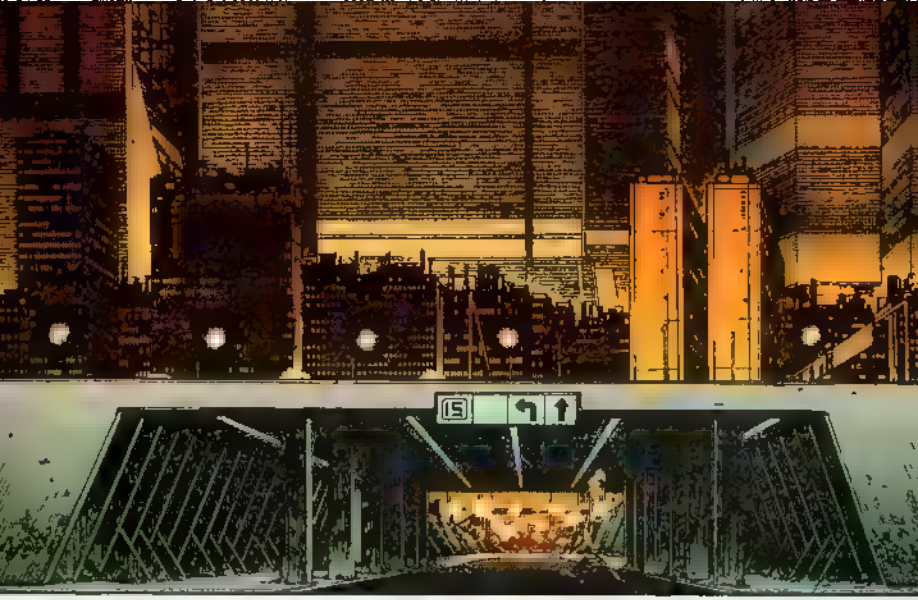

AHHEEE!!
VVR
RRRN
YAHOO!!
VVRRRNNN
VVRRRRN
SKROW
C-CRAP!
!

VRRRRN
?

WHADDAYA WANNA DO?
HMP!
SMACK
I WANT A MEETING OF ALL THE LEADERS. NOT JUST OUR GANG... EVERYONE BUT THE CLOWNS.
ALL RIGHT!
WE NEED TO KNOW HOW MANY CLOWNS THERE ARE, AND WHERE THEY HIDE OUT!
THAP
RUMBLE!! WE'RE GONNA RUMBLE 'EM, RIGHT?!
YES, DAMMIT! IT'S A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE!
NO SELF-RESPECTING BIKERS LET A BUNCH OF JUNKIES KICK THEIR ASSES!!

SO, WHERE AND WHEN DO WE MEET?
HOW ABOUT...
RIGHT HERE! HARU-KIYA, FIVE O'CLOCK TOMOR-ROW!
YOU GOT IT! HERE AT FIVE!
THE CLOWNS ARE DEAD MEAT!
HEE-HEE-HEE-HEE!
EVERY-BODY GOT THAT?!
YEAH!
SO WHERE DO WE BEGIN?
I'LL TAKE THE SEVENTH DISTRICT... THE CARBURE-TOR BOYS!
TOKKA TOKKA TOKKA
I CAN TALK TO MY CONTACTS IN THE WILD COCK AND THE PRETTY BOMBERS.
REMEMBER, TOMORROW AT FIVE!
DON'T HURT YOUR-SELF!

THEY CERTAINLY THINK A LOT OF YOU.
WELL...I'M A POPULAR KIND OF GUY.
YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY PLANNING ON GOING THROUGH WITH IT, ARE YOU?
I'M GONNA GIVE THIS FIGHT EVERYTHING I'VE GOT!
BUT...
YOU BUTTHEAD!!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT YOU AND I ARE FUGITIVES?!
TAK TAK TAK
HMM..
.....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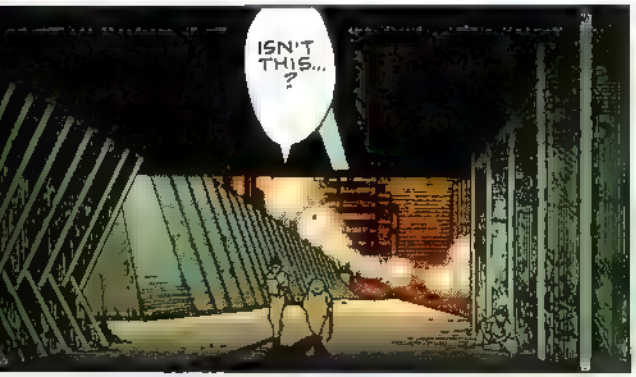
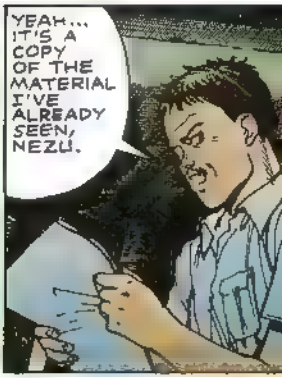
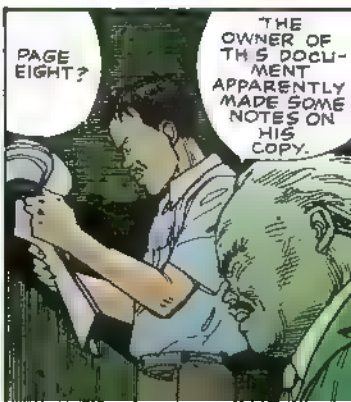
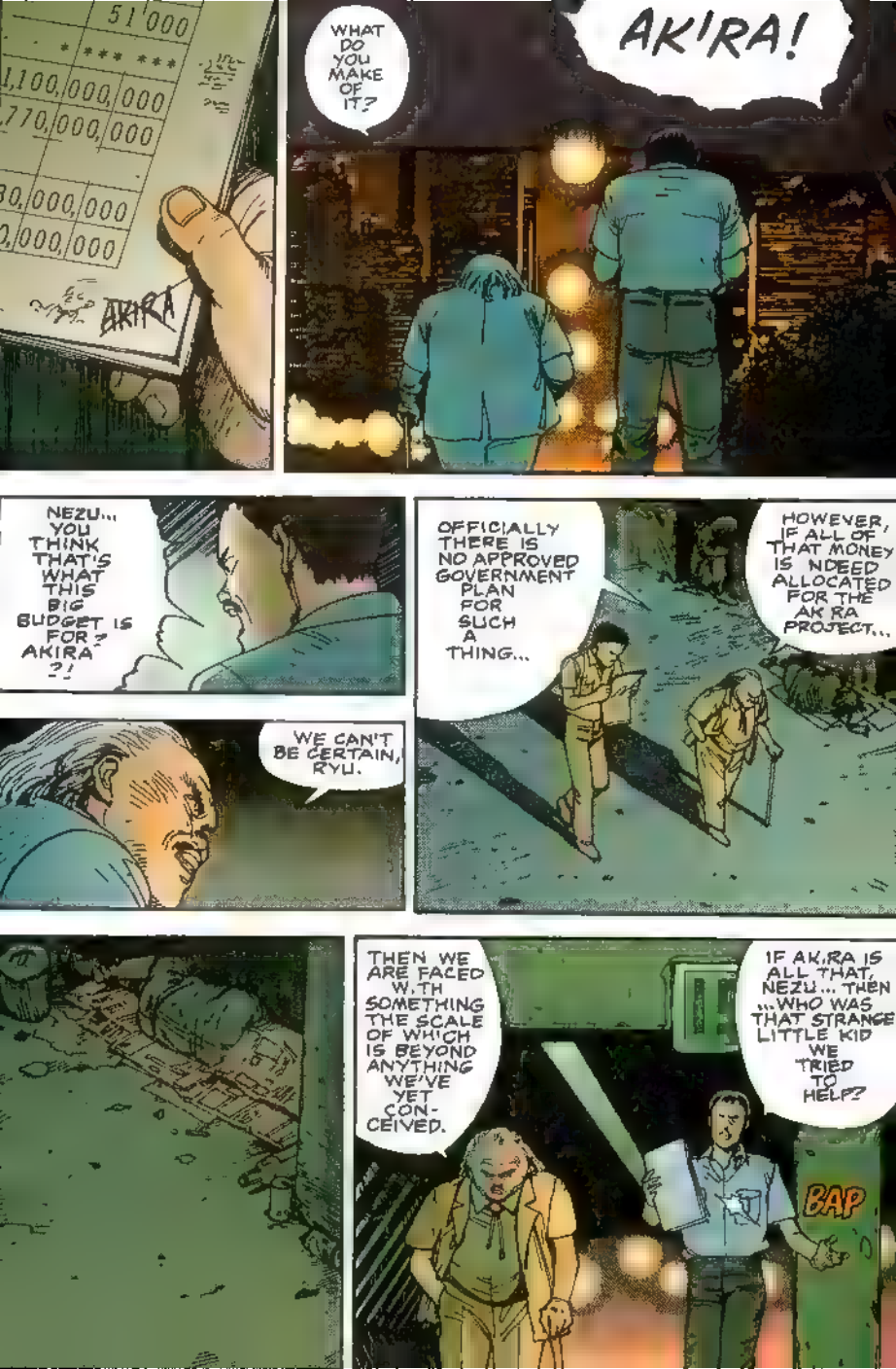

ISN'T THIS...?


YEAH... IT'S A COPY OF THE MATERIAL I'VE ALREADY SEEN, NEZU.

IT'S A DIFFERENT COPY OF THE SAME INFORMATION
LOOK AT THE LOWER RIGHT CORNER OF PAGE EIGHT RYU.


PAGE EIGHT?
THE OWNER OF THIS DOCUMENT APPARENTLY MADE SOME NOTES ON HIS COPY.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1,100,000,000
770,000,000
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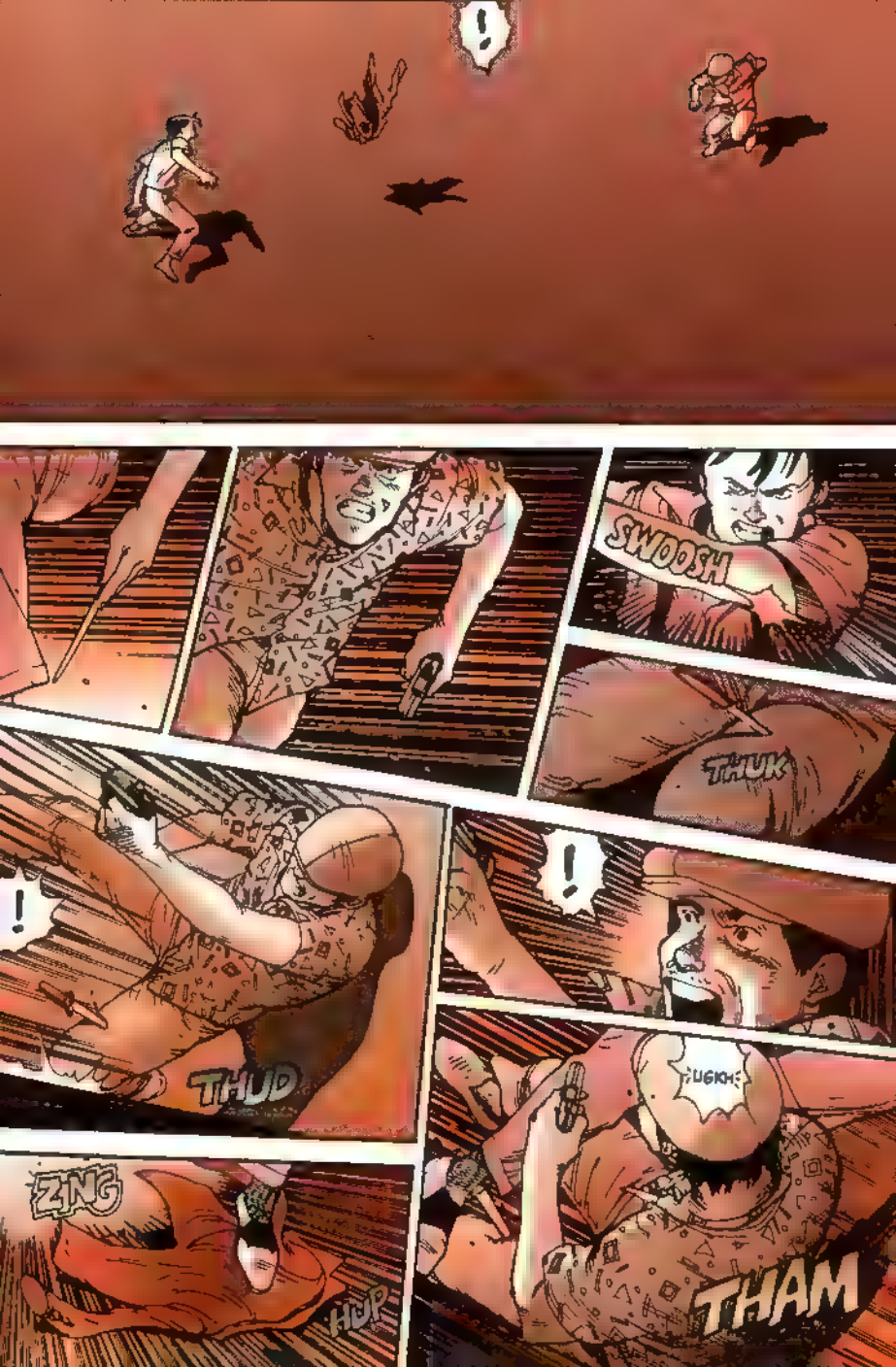
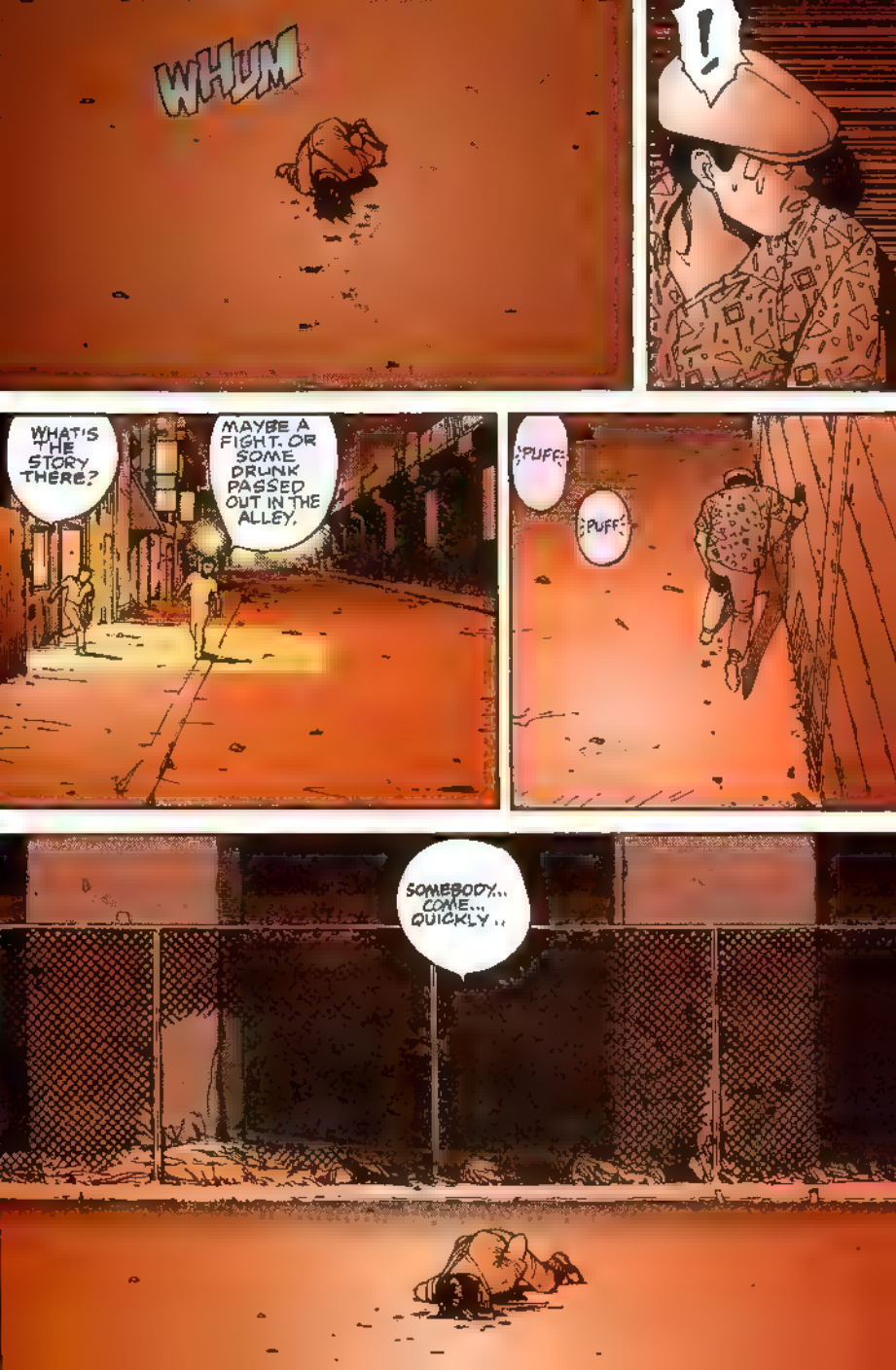
0,000,000
AKIRA
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?
AKIRA!
NEZU... YOU THINK THAT'S WHAT THIS BIG BUDGET IS FOR? AKIRA?!
WE CAN'T BE CERTAIN, RYU.
OFFICIALLY THERE IS NO APPROVED GOVERNMENT PLAN FOR SUCH A THING...
HOWEVER, IF ALL OF THAT MONEY IS NDEED ALLOCATED FOR THE AKIRA PROJECT...
THEN WE ARE FACED W.TH SOMETHING THE SCALE OF WHICH IS BEYOND ANYTHING WE'VE YET CON-CEIVED.
IF AKIRA IS ALL THAT, NEZU... THEN ...WHO WAS THAT STRANGE LITTLE KID WE TRIED TO HELP?
BAP

EVEN IF AS WE'VE BEGUN TO SUSPECT, OUR ENEMIES HAVE DEVELOPED AN ENTIRE UNIT OF PEOPLE WITH PARA-NORMAL ABILITIES, I DOUBT WE'RE FACING ANYTHING OF THE POWER OF ...SAY, A NUCLEAR WEAPON.
WITH THE BUDGET THEY'VE GIVEN THEMSELVES, THEY COULD DESTROY THIS PLANET A HUNDRED TIMES OVER.
I AM FULLY AWARE OF THAT, RYU. HAVE YOU LOCATED THE PILL AS YET?
NO.
15
LEAVE ALL THAT TO ME, NEZU. I'VE GOT A BACKUP STANDING BY.
HOW'S IT GOING WITH THE BOY?
WILL THE GIRL --THE ONE YOU CALL YOUR SISTER--HAVE ANY PROBLEM STAYING WITH H M?
15

HAVEN'T I SEEN YOUR FACE SOME-WHERE BEFORE?
ME? YOU MUST BE THINKING OF TWO OTHER GUYS.
NO. I'M NOT.
I REMEMBER YOU VERY WELL... AT
FLIP
!
!
WE WERE HAVING A LOT OF TROUBLE THE NIGHT I SAW YOU.
YOU SON OF A--!


!
SWOOSH
THUK
!
THUD
ZNG
HUP
UGHH
THAM

KRAK
KLUNK
ON YOUR FEET!
UNHH!
UNGHK
UP YOURS!
YARRR!
AAH...
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
WHUD


WHUM
!
WHAT'S THE STORY THERE?
MAYBE A FIGHT. OR SOME DRUNK PASSED OUT IN THE ALLEY.
PUFF
PUFF
SOMEBODY... COME... QUICKLY..

VRRRN
ビリヤード
SKREEEEE
CHUK

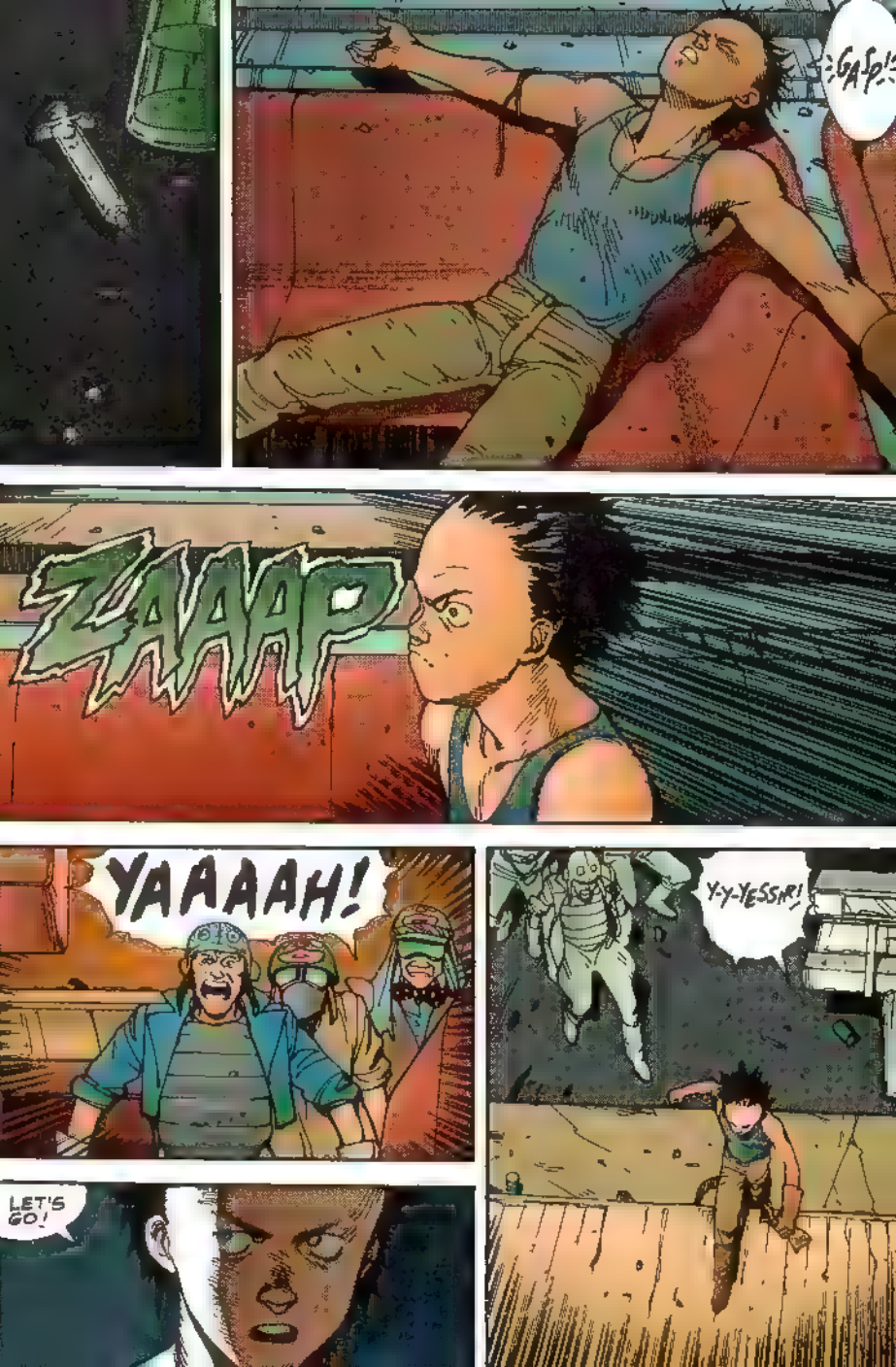
IF THAT'S EVERY-BODY, LET'S GET STARTED.
HEY! I'M RUNNING A BUSINESS. YOU'RE NOT PLANNING ON TURNING THIS PLACE INTO A MEETING HALL, ARE YOU?
WE'LL BE OUT OF HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.
WE WANT THEM TO RUN ALONG THE ROUTE WE'VE LAID OUT, STRAIGHT TO PIER TWELVE.
ALONG THE WAY, YOU GUYS WILL BE PICKING OFF ALL THE WEAKER ONES

JUST LIKE THAT, YAMAGATA?
WE HANDLE THE SMALL FRY AND LEAVE YOUR TEAM TO TAKE ON THAT MONSTER... ALONE?
"MONSTER?"
YEAH! WE'LL HAVE THEM RIGHT WHERE WE WANT THEM.
THAT'S OUR BUSINESS. THE CLOWNS' LEADER IS OFF-LIMITS TO THE REST OF YOU!
WHAT MONSTER?
YOU KNOW HIM, KANEDA.
HE USED TO BE PART OF YOUR GANG.
BUT WHY DID YOU SAY HE'S A MONSTER?
I TRIED TO TELL YOU. TETSUO'S NOT LIKE HE WAS BEFORE. SOMETHING CHANGED HIM.
WHATEVER HE IS, HE'S ALL YOURS. HAVE FUN WHEN HE RIPS YOUR HEADS OPEN.

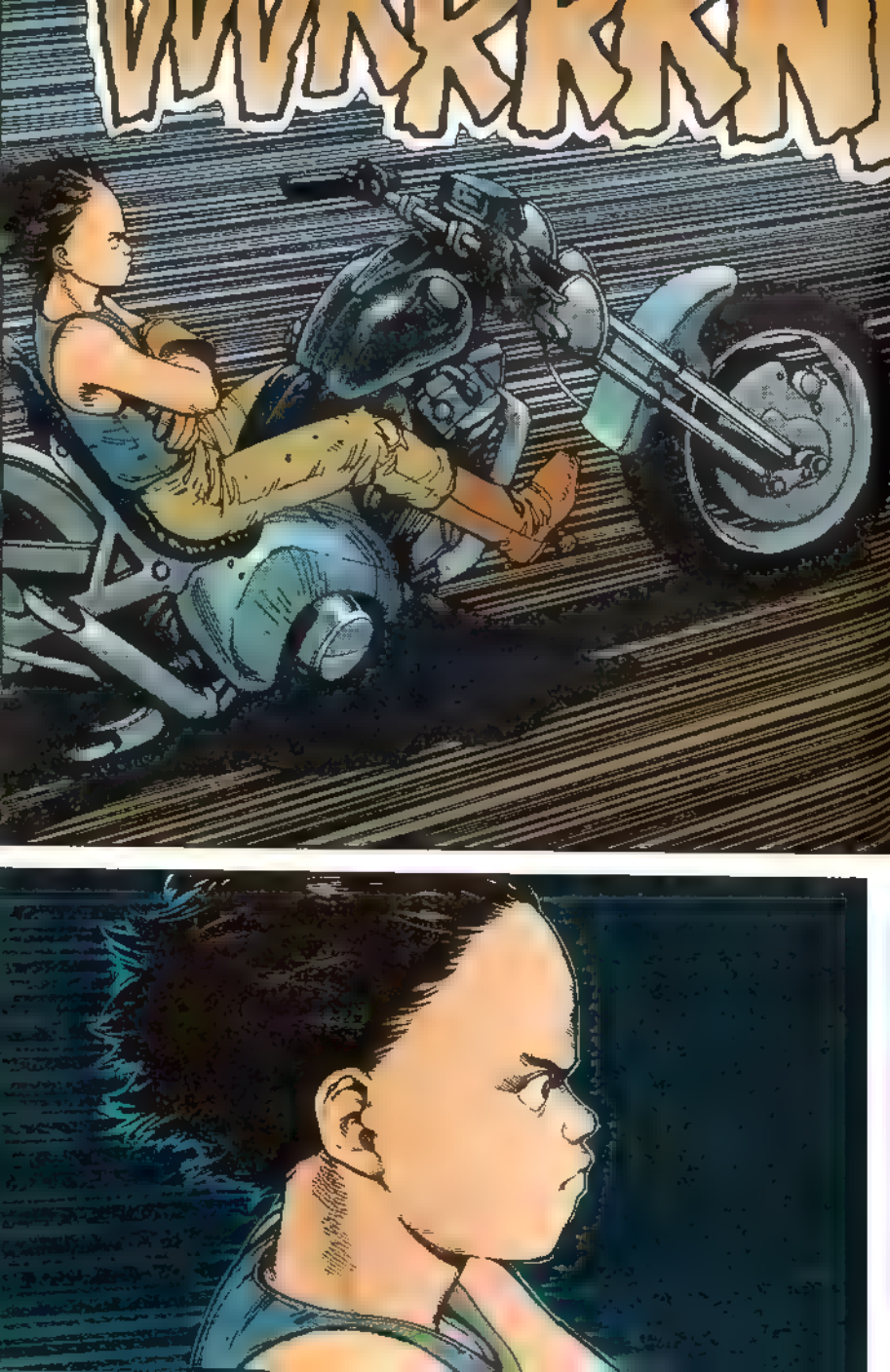
ISN'T IT READY YET?
AS SOON AS IT COOLS.
WELL, MOVE IT!
YOU KNOW HOW PURE THAT STUFF IS?
NO...
SEVENTY PERCENT. A DROP OF IT WOULD BE A ONE-WAY TICKET TO HELL FOR FOR ANY NORMAL PERSON.
THIS ISN'T FOR ANY NORMAL PERSON.

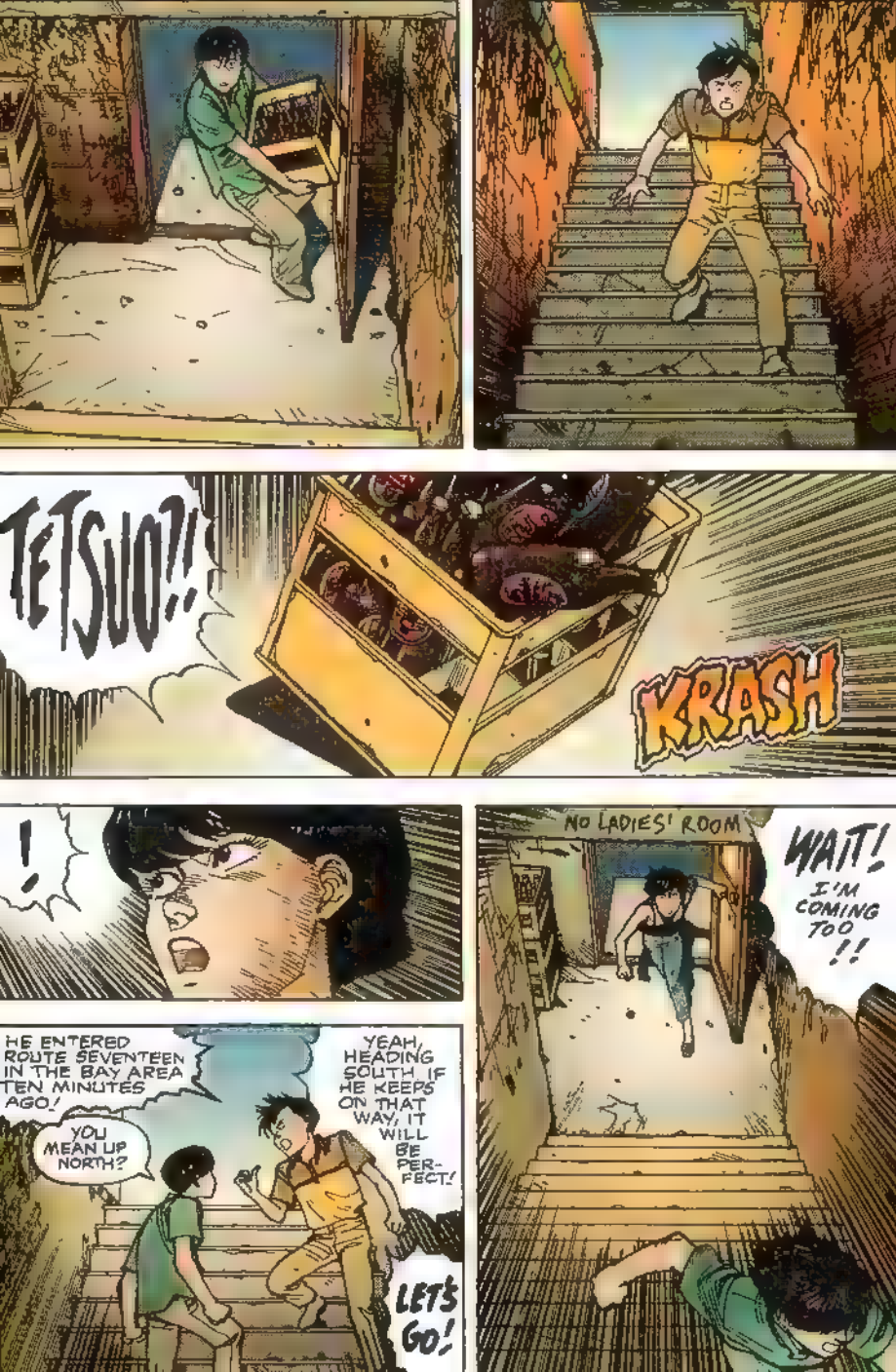
IT'S READY.
AAAAA...
AAAAA...

HE RIPPED A GUY'S HEAD OPEN... WITHOUT TOUCHING HIM?!
I KNEW YOU'D THINK I WAS CRAZY! THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO TELL YOU!
MAKING THINGS MOVE AND EXPLODE...
EXACTLY! IT'S CALLED "PSYCHO... PSYCHOANALYSIS", AND TETSUO'S GOT IT!
"PSYCHO...?" YOU MEAN "PSYCHOKINESIS"? LIKE HE'S A MUTANT, OR SOMETHING?
THIS STUFF'S BEEN COMING UP A LOT LATELY.
HOW FASCINATING!
TELL ME MORE.
I WANT TO HEAR MORE ABOUT IT, TOO.


GASP!
ZAAAP
YAAAAH!
LET'S GO!
Y-Y-YESSIR!

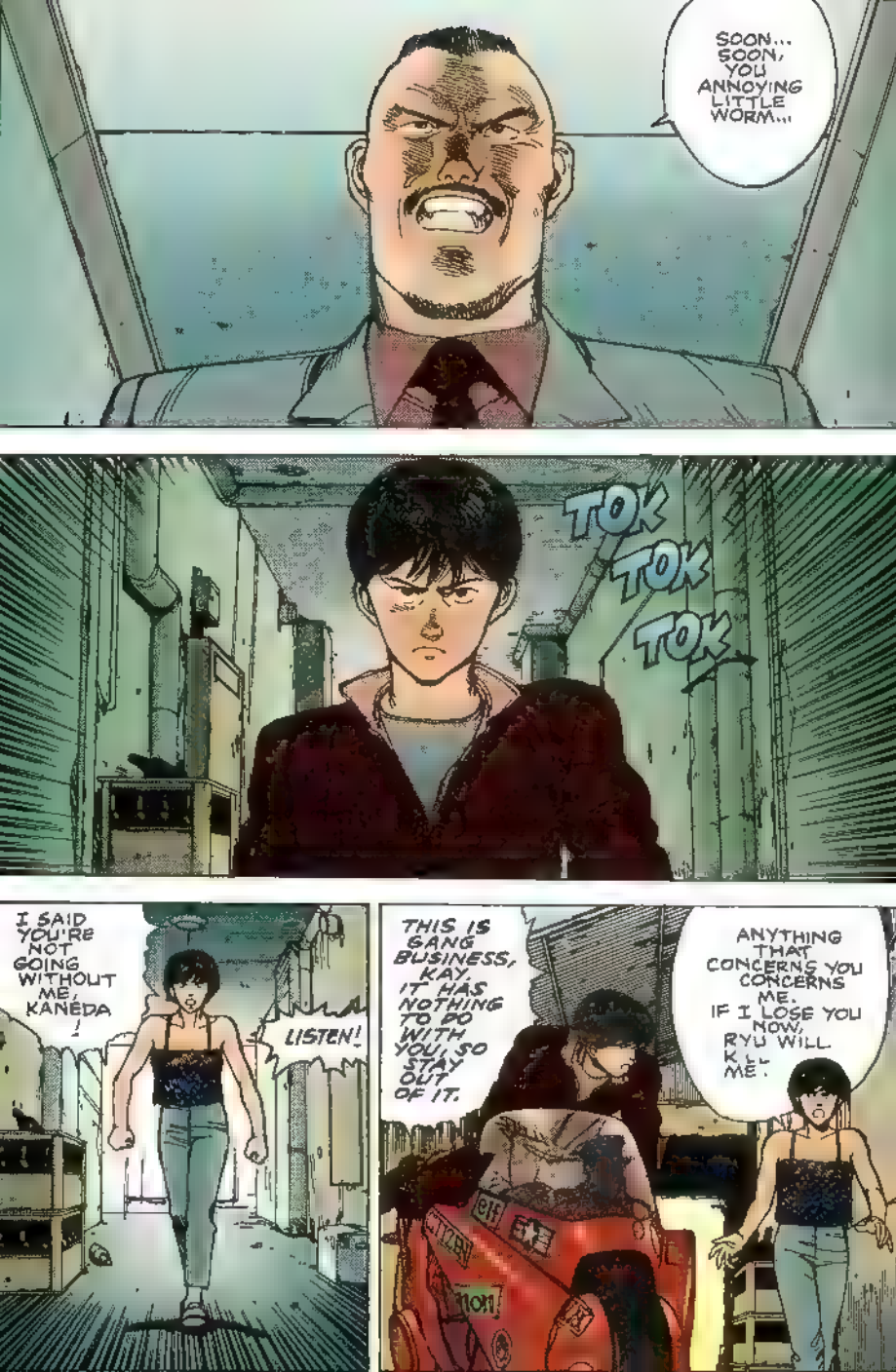
.....
A MONSTER.
TETSUO...
VVVRRRRRNN


VVVRRRN


TETSUO?!
KRASH
!
HE ENTERED ROUTE SEVENTEEN IN THE BAY AREA TEN MINUTES AGO!
YOU MEAN UP NORTH?
YEAH, HEADING SOUTH IF HE KEEPS ON THAT WAY, IT WILL BE PERFECT!
LET'S GO!
NO LADIES' ROOM
WAIT! I'M COMING TOO!!

752
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY
... A BAR CALLED HARUKIYA, RIGHT ON THE BORDER BETWEEN THE SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH DISTRICTS.
IT'S ALONGSIDE THE EXPRESSWAY.
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE FIFTH FLOOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
NO, THERE WAS NO SIGN OF THE MAN WITH THE BEARD...
...BUT THE GIRL WAS THERE I'M SURE OF IT.

INFORM THE POLICE AT ONCE.
YES, SIR!
TELL THEM TO CHECK EVERY BOLT HOLE AND ALLEYWAY, HOWEVER SMALL.
PUFF
PUFF
PUFF
TOK
YOU'VE DONE WELL. NOW YOU CAN RE-AX.
TH-THANK YOU, COLONEL...
SLAM
I WANT A FULL REPORT FROM EVERY POST WITHIN THE NEXT HALF HOUR.
YES, SIR!


SOON... SOON, YOU ANNOYING LITTLE WORM...
TOK TOK TOK
I SAID YOU'RE NOT GOING WITHOUT ME, KANEDA!
LISTEN!
THIS IS GANG BUSINESS, KAY. IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, SO STAY OUT OF IT.
ANYTHING THAT CONCERNS YOU CONCERNS ME. IF I LOSE YOU NOW, RYU WILL KILL ME.

COME ON IN THERE! LET'S MOVE IT!
VRRN
VRRN
HEY, LEND IT TO ME, WOULD YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU KNOW. I THINK THERE WAS STILL ONE BULLET LEFT...
BANG!!
VRRRN

BOOM
YEE-HAAA!
KRONK
!!
VRRRN
YAKGH!
SKREEEE

KRESH
THUD
BAM
SKREEE
YIII!
HEY, CLOWN, YOU DON'T LOOK SO TOUGH NOW!

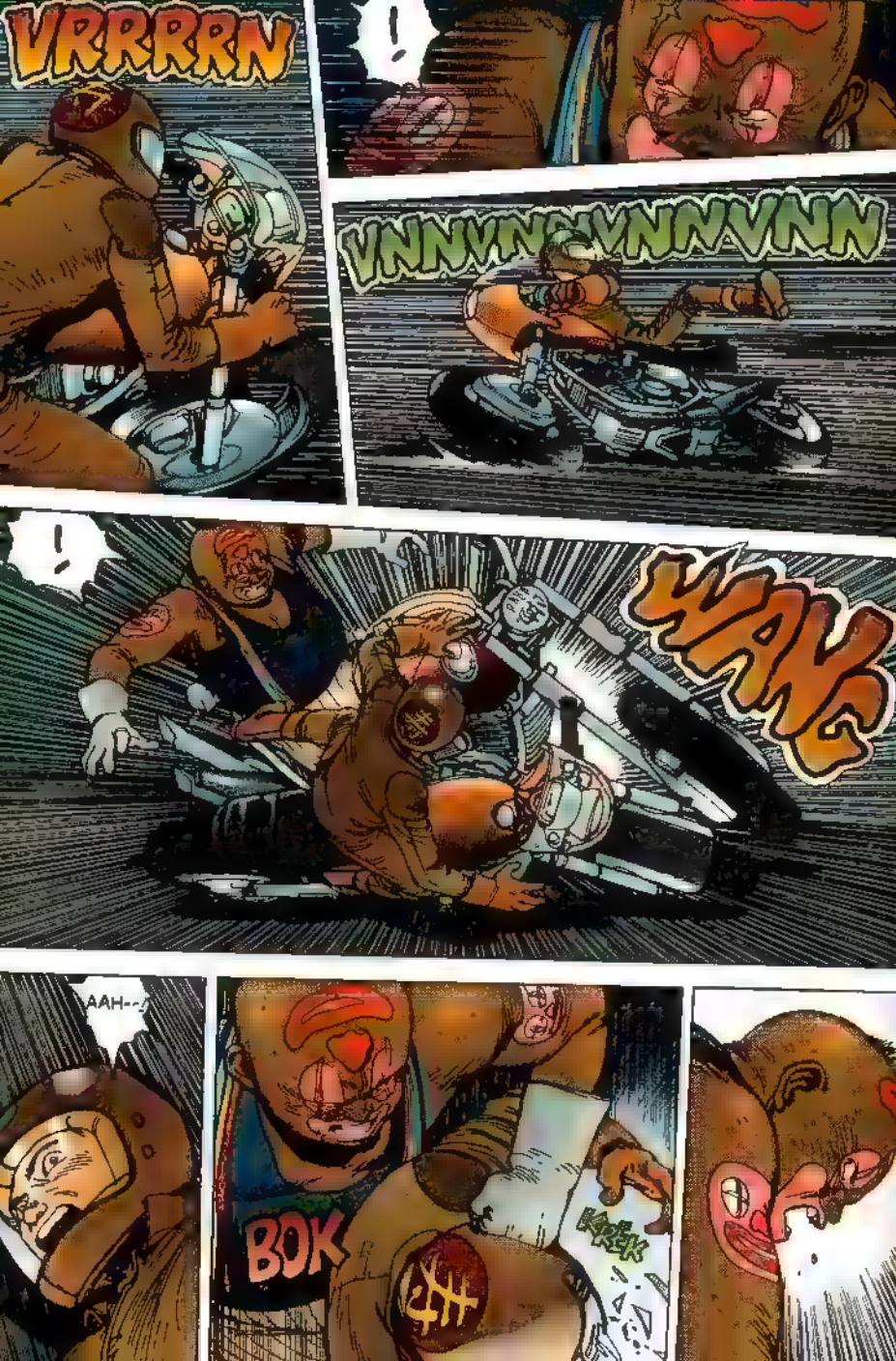
WUD
WUD
WUD
SMESH
BAM
BAM
BAMBAM
SCOOT
15-16
THOKKA-THOKKA
OW!!
YIKES!!
THOKKA
THOKKA
VRRRRN

OKAY, I FOUND A HELMET THAT WILL FIT ME.
LET'S GO!
.....
...THAT...
GRRR GRRR
...PRICK!
THOK
HE MADE A FOOL OF ME!!
I WON'T FORGET THIS!!
VRRRRRN
HEH-HEH-HEH-HEH!

WE'RE GONNA BE LATE, AREN'T WE ?!
YEAH! I HOPE YAMAGATA CAN HANDLE THINGS TILL WE GET THERE!
!
THUP
YARRR!

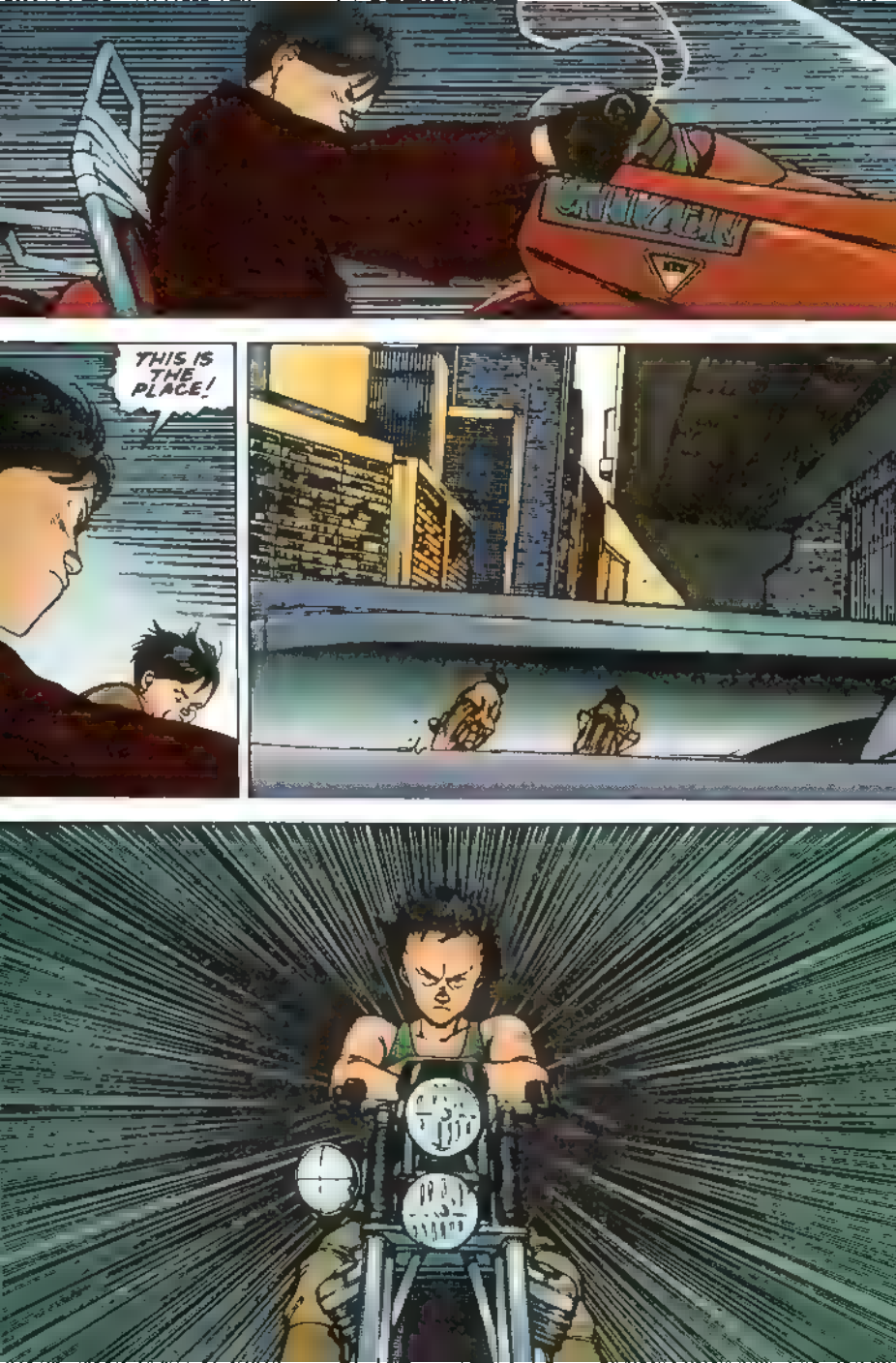
AUGH!!
WHOM
WADDAWADDAWADDA
YAIEE!!
EEEK!
VRRRV
KAV
YOU FILTHY PIG!!

YOU'RE A DEAD MAN!!
WHOK
!
LOUSY LITTLE WIMP!!


VRRRRN
!
VNNVNNVNNVNN
!
WAAC
AAH--!
BOK
KRAK

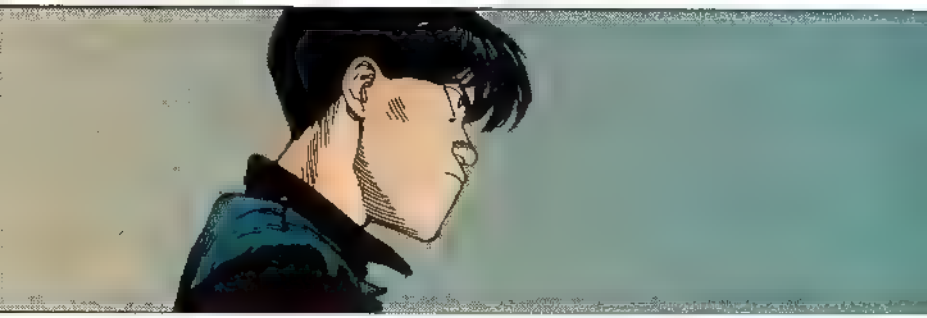
WHOOM
!
OKAY, NOW!!
YOU GOT IT!!
NO PRISONERS!
GET!
A COUPLE OF 'EM DUCKED DOWN THAT ALLEY!
I'M ON 'EM!
GET THEM!!
171 – 172
197

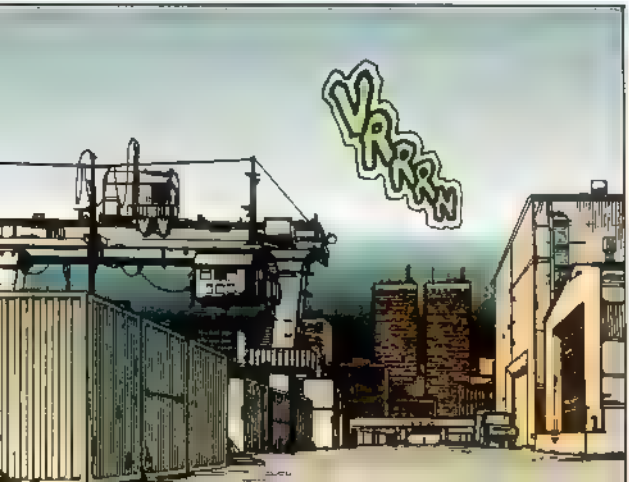
MY, MY, MY, WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
AND WITH THE KEY STILL IN THE IGNITION!
JUST WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH MY--?
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE USE OF YOUR BIKE, MA'AM! I'LL HAVE IT BACK IN NO TIME!
YEEEE!
POW
BAMMO
VRRRRRRRN
elf

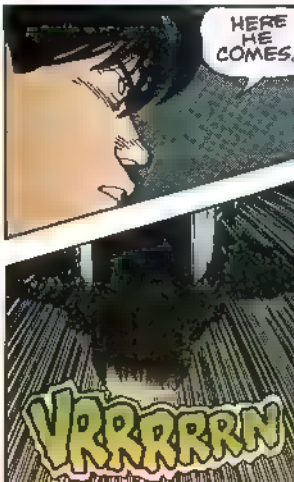

THIS IS THE PLACE!

VRRR
RRN
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, YOU SONUVABITCH!
LAST WEEK YOU KILLED MY BEST FRIEND!!
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!!
VRRR
RRN
REEE

THOOOM
CRASH
BLOMM
SKREEECH
SO LONG...
...STUPID!




VRRRRN


HERE HE COMES.
VRRRRRN

TWEE-WHEEEET!!
VRRRRRN
VRRRRN
LET'S GO!!
VRRR
RRRN

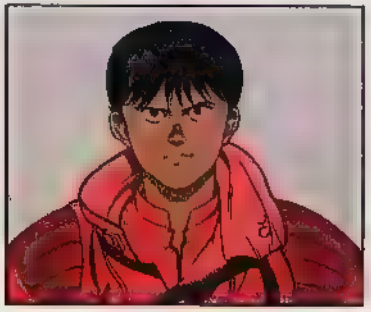
NEXT ISSUE: **MY FRIEND, MY ENEMY**

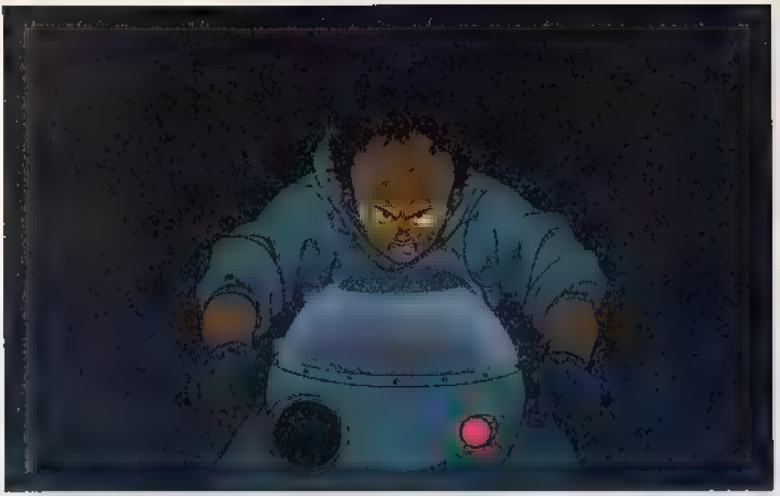
AKIRA

MORE SCENES FROM THE ANIMATED FILM

In issue five of our edition of *Akira* we showed material from the animated movie which had its premiere in Tokyo on July 16, 1988. On this and the page that follows, we're happy to provide a further look at the film (the number one attraction in its opening week) which was storyboarded, written and directed by the creator of *Akira*, Katsuhiro Otomo.

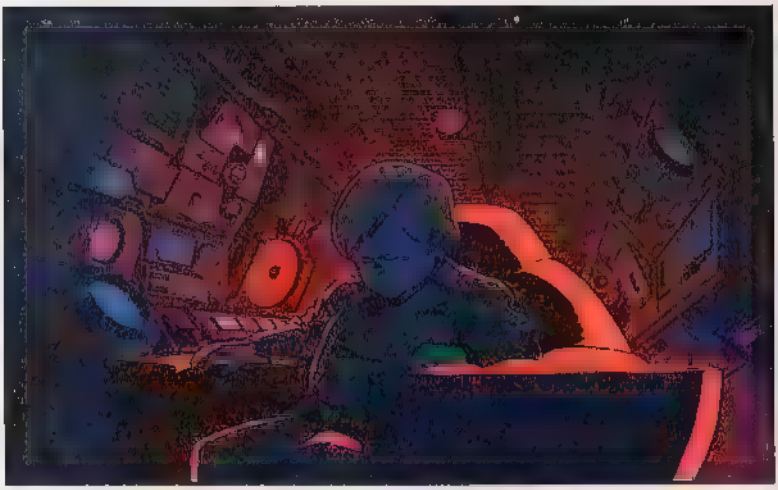
Above. Tetsuo fights a member of the Clown gang. Note that Otomo has the motorcycles shown with colored tires, this is a development now believed being considered for the future by manufacturers. Below. one of the character designs for Kaneda.





Tetsuo riding on a newly designed motorcycle.

Masaru, Number 27, inside the government helicopter searching for his fellow mutant, Takashi, Number 26.



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KATSUHIRO OTOMO
writer, illustrator

YASUMITSU SUETAKE
chief assistant to Mr. Otomo

MAKOTO SHIOSAKI
SATOSHI TAKABATAKE
assistants to Mr. Otomo

HIROSHI HIRATA
designer, AKIRA calligraph

AKIRA SAITO
designer, Kodansha edition

Kodansha Ltd.

YOKO UMEZAWA
with LINDA M. YORK
translation

KOICHI YURI
editor, Kodansha edition

NORIYUKI OKAZAKI
YUKA ANDO
editorial coordinators

Epic Comics

JO DUFFY
english adaptation

STEVE OLIFF
colorist

MICHAEL HIGGINS
letterer

MIKE ROCKWITZ
HARRY CANDELARIO
MICHAEL HEISLER
production

MARK CHIARELLO
editorial assistant, Epic editorial

ARCHIE GOODWIN
editor, Epic edition

War in the streets. Neo-Tokyo in the thirty-eighth year after World War III shakes with the thunder of careening motorcycles, rings with the clatter of brutal combat. With chains, with pipes, with the very machines they ride, members of the young fugitive Kaneda's motorcycle gang move to avenge themselves upon their ruthless rivals, the Clowns. But the Clowns have a new leader, Tetsuo. Once Kaneda called him a friend. Now everyone calls him a monster. Altered by forces he does not understand, Tetsuo has become a psychic powered giant. Yet for all his power, he teeters on the brink of madness, beyond control of even the mysterious government forces who helped place him on this path in the hope of countering someone even more deadly, even more threatening. Someone called . . . AKIRA.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

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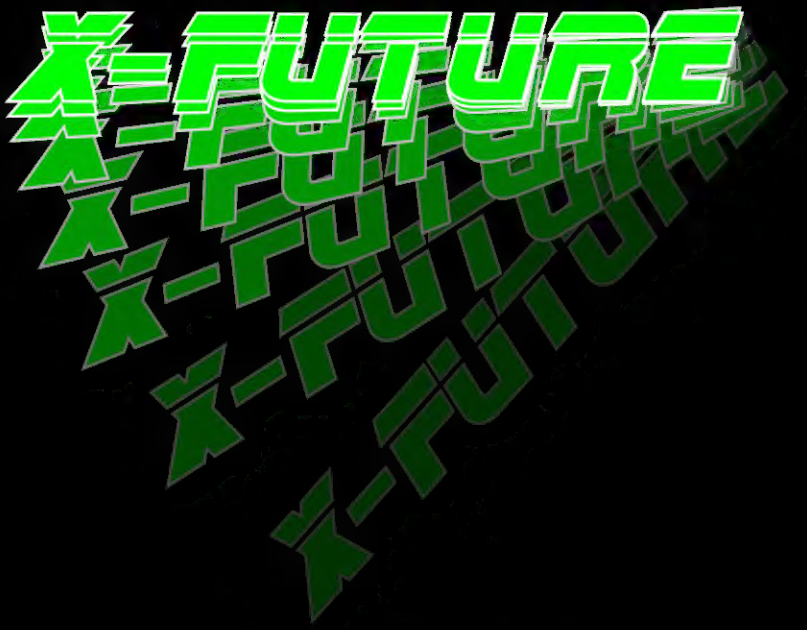
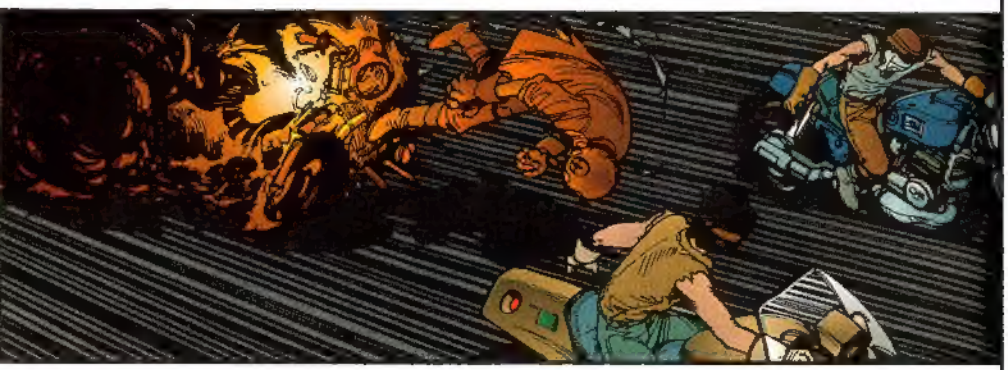
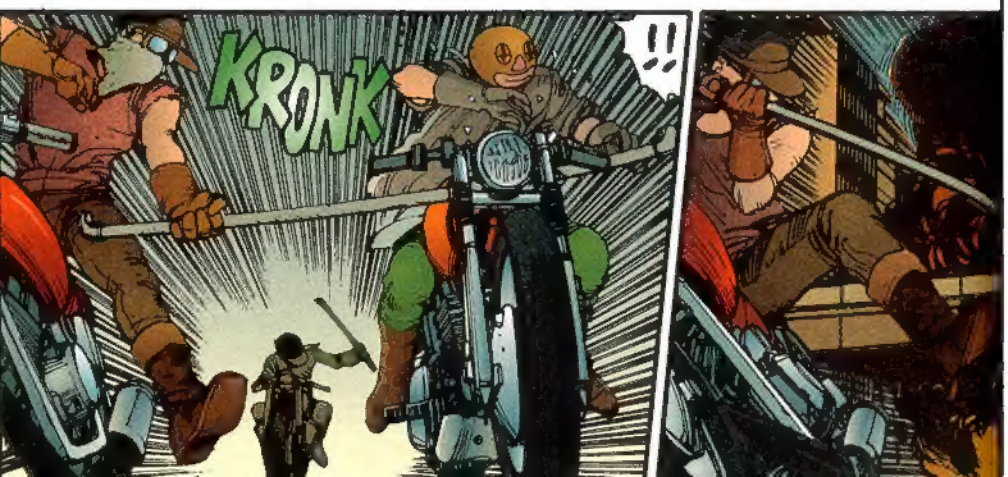


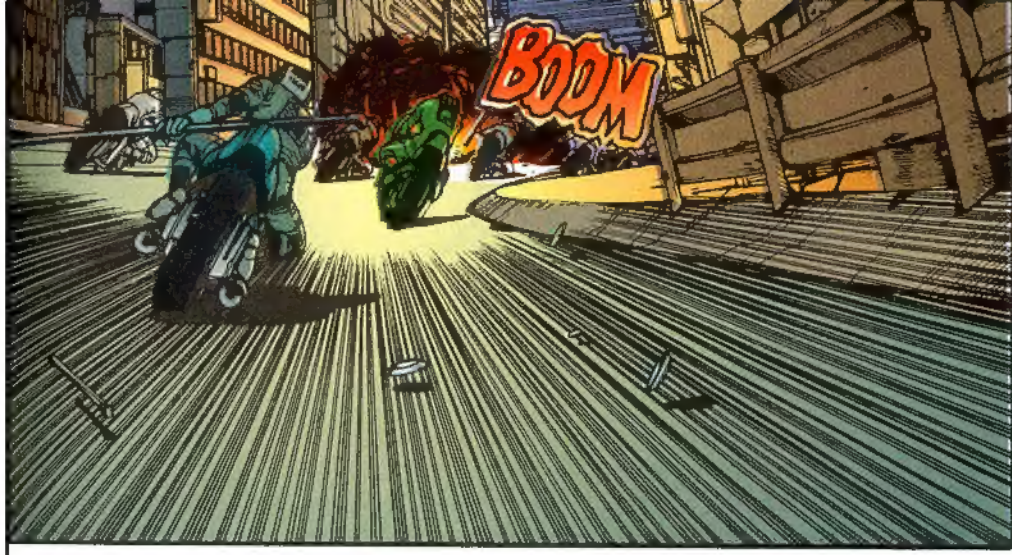
I love um

I buy um

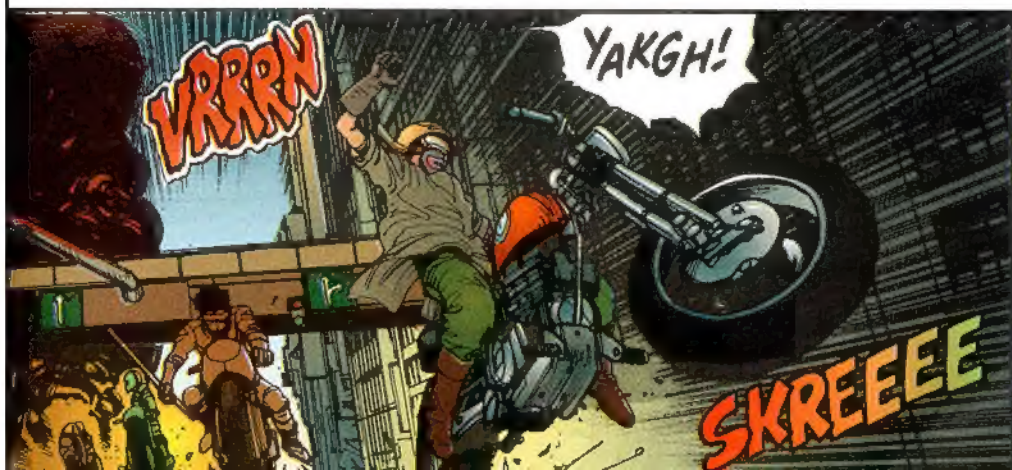
I preserve um

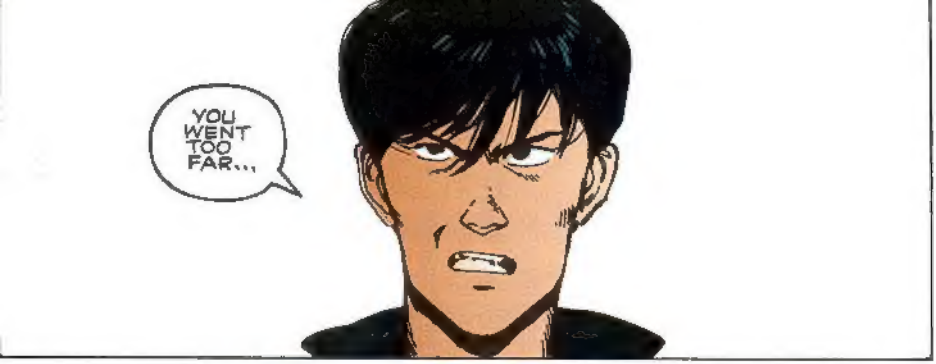


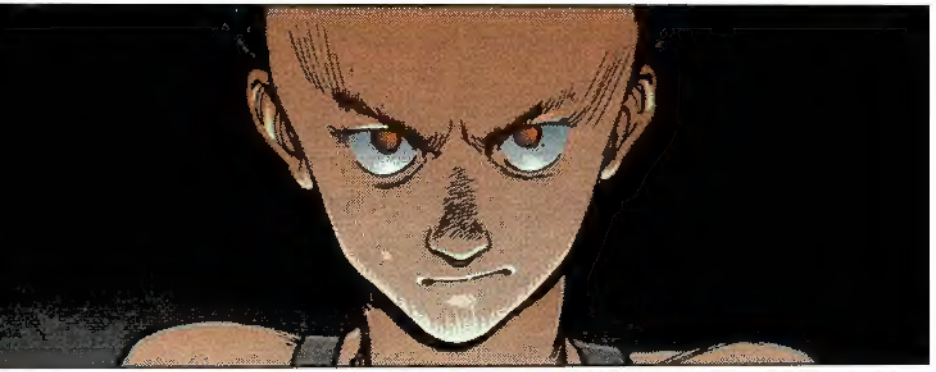

KRONK
!!


BOOM

YEE-HAAA!


VRRRW
YAKGH!
SKREEEE


YOU WENT TOO FAR...



DIDN'T YOU, TETSUO?!
VRRRRRRRRN